

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH  
AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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**Abstract:** *This article presents a comparative analysis of idiomatic expressions in English and Uzbek languages. Idioms are an integral part of any language and culture, reflecting the worldview, traditions, and mentality of its speakers. By comparing idioms in both languages, this paper aims to highlight similarities, differences, and cultural underpinnings that shape idiomatic use.*

**Keywords:** *Idiomatic expressions, phraseology, cultural linguistics, comparative analysis, English language, Uzbek language, metaphor, non-literal meaning, translation, cultural equivalence*

### **Introduction**

Language is not merely a tool for communication; it is also a repository of cultural identity and collective memory. Among the many elements that enrich a language, idiomatic expressions hold a special place due to their metaphorical, culturally bound, and often non-literal meanings. Idioms are widely used in both spoken and written language, conveying messages in a vivid and sometimes humorous manner.

The English and Uzbek languages belong to different language families — English to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family, and Uzbek to the Turkic family. Despite this, both languages possess a rich collection of idiomatic expressions. This paper seeks to conduct a comparative analysis of idioms in English and Uzbek, focusing on their structure, meaning, usage, and cultural significance.

### **Main part**

#### **1. Definition and Nature of Idioms**

Idioms are fixed combinations of words whose meaning is not deducible from the meanings of the individual words. For instance, the English idiom "kick the bucket" means to die, while in Uzbek, the idiom "qo'rg'oshin yutmoq" (to swallow lead) conveys a similar meaning.

Idioms can be classified according to their syntactic structure (phrases, clauses, sentences), their meaning (transparent vs. opaque), and their function (descriptive, expressive, evaluative).

#### **2. Similarities Between English and Uzbek Idioms**

Despite linguistic and cultural differences, certain universal human experiences and values have led to the formation of similar idiomatic expressions in both languages:

Concept	English Idiom	Uzbek Idiom	Literal Translation
Death	Kick the bucket	Qo'rg'oshin yutmoq	Swallow lead
Lazines	As slow as a snail	Ilojsiz kaltakesak dumini bosadi	The helpless lizard steps on its own tail
Deception	Pull someone's leg	Burnini ushlamoq	To hold someone by the nose
Poverty	As poor as a church mouse	Eshik qoqmoq	To knock on doors (to beg)

These examples illustrate how both languages use metaphor and imagery drawn from everyday life, animals, nature, or the human body.

### 3. Differences in Idiomatic Usage

Cultural and environmental contexts greatly influence idiom formation. Certain idioms in English have no equivalents in Uzbek and vice versa:

- English idiom: "The ball is in your court" (It's your decision now) — reflects the popularity of sports like tennis.
- Uzbek idiom: "Odam ichiga chiqolmaydi" (He can't face people) — emphasizes honor and shame, core values in Uzbek society.

Moreover, religious and historical contexts shape idioms uniquely:

- English: "A Judas kiss" (a betrayal by a close one) — Biblical reference.
- Uzbek: "Qurbaqani suvga tashla, yana suvga qaytadi" (Throw a frog into water, it returns) — from folk wisdom.

### 4. Structural Comparison

Structurally, English idioms tend to be shorter and often use prepositions or phrasal verbs ("get cold feet," "hit the sack"). Uzbek idioms, however, frequently form complete sentences or longer phrases ("Bir qop shakar bersang ham og'zini yopib bo'lmaydi" — Even a sack of sugar won't keep his mouth shut).

### Conclusion

Idiomatic expressions are a mirror of a nation's way of thinking, cultural norms, and life experiences. The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek idioms reveals both universal themes — such as love, betrayal, hardship — and unique cultural elements that reflect each language's history, lifestyle, and values. Understanding idioms across languages not only enhances translation and language learning but also promotes cross-cultural understanding.

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